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The Place of The Child

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THE IOWA HOMEMAKER

"A Magazine for Homemakers from a Homemakers' School"

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The Place of the Child

By ANNA E. RICHARDSON

I HAVE read with keen interest the articles, "The Place of the Child," which the Homemaker has published, and I congratulate you on the constructive way you have approached the study of a question which is much under discussion and which very rightly does have two sides to it.

I have spent little more than a year now studying this movement for child development and I have been privileged to visit most of the nursery schools in the United States, as well as a number of the clinics where difficult problems of child behavior are referred. I have talked with many parents and have often discussed the question at issue, "Is it best for the child, as well as for the mother, to send it to a well run nursery school?"

Not long ago I was talking with the dean of one of our agricultural colleges about the problems of child development and the college's responsibility for teaching its young women how to grow children, as Mr. Knapp used to say. He turned to me and said, "I would not send my child to a nursery school," and I replied, "Well, I doubt if I would, but if I didn't I would devote a large part of my time providing for my child the opportunities which the well-run nursery school offers him;" and then I told him something of the guiding principles which direct the activities of the nursery school, of the type of training and the personality of nursery school teachers, and I also told him of the importance, especially in the early years, of surrounding the child with an environment where he can develop, as fully as possible, his potential physical, emotional and intellectual capacities. When I stopped he turned to me with a smile and said, "Miss Richardson, I shall send my child to a nursery school, because I have neither the time nor the training to give to my child the care that he could get at the kind of nursery school you have described."

Whether one sends one's child to a nursery school may depend upon many things, but whether you do or not, do not lose the opportunity to visit one if there is a nursery school in your town or near by. Learn something of the methods they use, watch the chil-

dren and the teachers. Do the children seem happy? Are they free? Are they self-reliant? Do they seem well developed for their ages? Are they eating the right food? Drinking their



This is the third and last of the series on the Nursery School. This article is written by our former dean, who is now a field worker of the committee for child development and parental education of the American Home Economics Association.

milk without being coaxed? The answers to some of these questions should help you to decide whether you would like your child to go to a nursery school. Further, find out the plan of cooperation with the homes of the children. Does the teacher seem eager to encourage the home to assume its full responsibility? Remember the good nursery school *always supplements, never supplants* the home. It helps the home and the parents to do

better the things which they would like to do for their child. It helps the parents to get a better understanding of that often very puzzling bit of humanity, the young son or daughter who seems so wise, altho so very young, who so early learned how to get his own way by methods all his own. A visit to a nursery school will reward you with a store of pleasant memories for many a day.

I am not willing to argue for or against the nursery school, for as yet this choice is within the reach of only a selected few of our children and this is a privileged group living in one of our large centers or in the proximity of one of our progressive college departments. I am concerned not so much with this question, but rather, is the modern home the best place for the child? Don't be startled; there are those who, in the light of modern conditions, are seriously asking this question. Are we, as parents, ready to stand shoulder to shoulder to maintain our homes as the best places in which to rear children? I hope so, for I have great faith in the home, but it will take real understanding and constant effort.

The more I have studied the problems of child behavior, the more convinced I am that they are only symptomatic—the real problem is adult behavior, which the child so quickly reflects.

One of our modern psychologists recently said, "We are now freed from the bugaboo of heredity." I was tempted to add, "and we have only jumped from the frying pan into the fire," for as serious as it is to feel that one of your bad characteristics has been inherited by your child, it is infinitely worse to know that your daily life and conduct conditions his behavior and that they are the largest factors in determining what his character will be, what are his social traits, his standards of right and wrong, of fair play and of loyalty. Are we ready, for the sake of our children, to face these facts and to do our very best to surround him with conditions which will give him a chance to be the child we would like to have him? Are you ready to study seriously some of

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Registrar Reports Increased Enrollment

With 4,074 students now attending classes at Iowa State, the enrollment

stands at the highest point in the school's history, according to the registrar. There are now 211 more students in school than were here at this time last year. The faculty directory is also somewhat larger than was the

directory for last year, as 114 new names have been added to that list.

According to the census taken at the time of registration, 11 percent of the present students operate motor cars. Every sort of a car, from the family sedan to the "collegiate flivver," amounting to almost nothing at all, is included in the census. A number of the students driving cars depend upon this means of transportation to and from the campus.

The College Savings Bank

AMES, IOWA

Wishes the Students of Iowa State College

A Merry Christmas

We will be glad to welcome you back next quarter.

SOMETHING NEW

In fact, everything shown in our store for Xmas is new.

Diaries

Stationery

Toilet Sets

Desk Sets

Fancy Wrapping Paper

Stickers—Seals—Cords

Felt Goods

Leather Goods

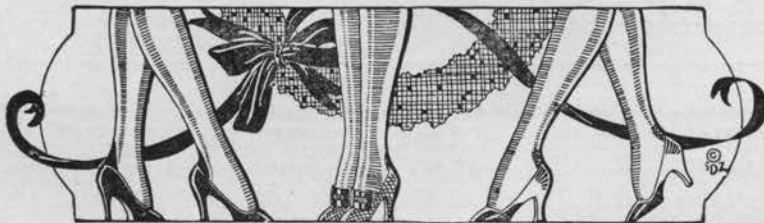
Etc.

It isn't too late to choose Xmas cards; our stock is yet complete. We are in a position to make your Xmas shopping a pleasure.

STUDENT SUPPLY STORE

Across from Campus, Next to Theater

Wayne Knit Hose for Christmas Gifts



In a diversity of shades, in various weights from the sheerest and most transparent to the heavier qualities. Wayne Knit Hosiery is known for its tendency to wear exceptionally long. Specially priced in box (3 pairs) quantities. You may have assorted colors and sizes.

Regular \$1.95 chiffon, 3 pairs.....	\$5.00
Light service—lisle hem	\$4.00
All silk semi-chiffon, \$2.00 quality.....	\$5.25
\$2.50 quality	\$6.00

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The Place of the Child

(Continued from page 1)

the best new books on child care and guidance, to attend classes for parents which are being offered by the extension service of some eight of our states' colleges? If this is impossible, to enroll in a correspondence course or to schedule your day so that you may spend time with your child, observing him closely, trying to understand him, talking to him or playing with him? Are you providing companionship for him of his own age? Remember, there is no factor in one's environment more important than association with one's equals, both in size and in social and intellectual development.

If you will do these things, I do not think you need to worry as to whether you send your child to the nursery school.

I cannot close this article without paying special tribute to the work of the nursery school at Iowa State College. I have watched its growth since its inception and I have worked closely with those who have been responsible for its direction—Mrs. Lancaster, Miss Swanson and Dr. Vance. The college and the state have a right to be proud of what it is doing and to rejoice that so many of the young women of Iowa are privileged to learn to know little children thru contact with that school. The service it renders to the student is still unique. There are few places that so well serve the homes of today and the homes of tomorrow as does that nursery school. It teaches love and respect for the personality of the child, and the application of the best there is in modern nutrition, psychology, sociology and physical care to the solution of simple problems of the home, so that the college woman may assume homemaking and parenthood with confidence born of intelligent understanding of her problems and how to meet them.

Household Buying

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consumer and some effort must be made upon the part of the consumers to get this help. Does the consumer want assistance and will she use it when she gets it? It has been suggested that the consumer herself does not know what she wants. If this indictment is true, is it not time for us to show that the household buyer does know what she needs and would appreciate help in these matters which concern her so vitally?